

By this amendment, claims 4, 14 and 15 are cancelled, claims 1 and 13 are amended and claims 20-22 are added so as more clearly to define applicants' invention in view of the art cited by the examiner. Reconsideration of applicants' invention as defined in claims 1-3, 5-9, 13 and 16-22 is requested.

The examiner rejected independent claim 1 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Tenna in view of Monro and over Warncke in view of Monro. As discussed in the specification on page 6 at lines 3-16, applicants' mask is easily positioned on the user's head due to the limited number of straps and conveniently tightened by pulling strap ends 30 and 31 forwardly and downwardly. The fact that the strap ends are located adjacent the base of the skull of the user makes access thereto much more convenient as opposed to the typical location of the buckle mechanisms being closer to the top or back of the head of the user. These features are included in amended claim 1.

Independent claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Backlund. Amended claim 13 specifically recites that the mounting member is upwardly bent and that the block defines holes therethrough for slidably receiving the mounting member. Specifically block 48 provides vertical adjustability means for lenses 40 and 41 whereby block 48 can be raised or lowered on mounting member 51. Additionally, horizontal adjustability is provided by mounting member 51 being slidably disposed into and out of ribs 49 and 50. This is discussed in the

specification beginning on page 8 at line 15 and continuing through line 2 on page 9.

Added claims 20-22 specifically define the adjustability feature of nose cup 14 discussed in the specification on page 7 at lines 5 - 17.

For the above reasons, it is believed that independent claims 1, 13 and 20 are allowable and that the dependent claims are allowable because they define further specific features of applicants' invention. Reconsideration of applicants' invention and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-9, 13 and 16-22 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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